



2004/05 PROGRESS REPORT

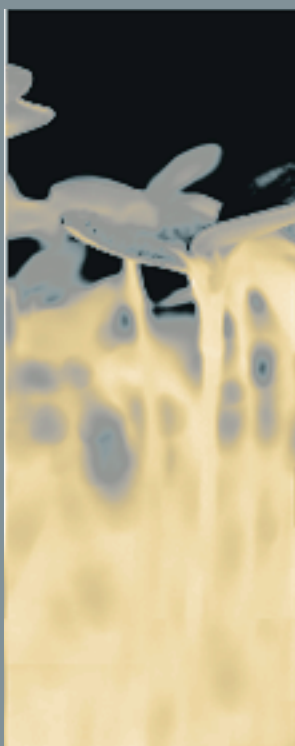
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

PROGRESS

PROTECTING PEOPLE

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



Agenda for action

The past two years have been marked by dramatic changes for state government, including the Department of Pesticide Regulation. Now we have an opportunity to review and assess these changes as we prepare DPR's future course.

Our budget and business fees have been revamped due to record state deficits. At the Legislature's direction, we undertook a major funding shift to support our regulatory programs with licensing and registration fees. We created a new branch to pursue fair and equitable mill assessments on pesticide makers and sellers. Now we are working with these stakeholders to make sure that everyone pays their fair share. At the same time, we instituted a sophisticated cost-accounting system to make our operations as efficient as possible.

We have also closed the loop on several major, long-standing program initiatives.

In the rulemaking area, we developed a unique approach to ground water protection regulations that are preventive yet offer flexibility for pesticide users. We also completed regulations for the fumigant methyl bromide that included the first subchronic exposure standards in the U.S. to better protect workers and others. Now we will concentrate on other fumigants to ensure that workers and the public are protected.

Turning to enforcement, we put new emphasis on improving oversight of local enforcement and fine-tuning the working relationship with our local partners, the County Agricultural Commissioners. Pesticide drift prevention continues to be a high priority. The commissioners have also received authority to levy higher civil penalties.

On the environmental monitoring front, we undertook a major effort to help develop data for surface water regulatory actions, and we began a formal review of diazinon and chlorpyrifos after these insecticides were identified as surface water contaminants. Meanwhile, we prepare to tackle the clean air challenges posed by volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in pesticide products.

As always, we will base our regulatory decisions on a foundation of sound science. To better focus our resources, we adopted a new policy for prioritizing pesticides for risk assessment. We also refocused our risk assessments to incorporate air, water, and other environmental factors at the same time.

Finally, we understand that California's environmental and economic interests should be complementary rather than conflicting, providing safer, efficacious products to meet the needs of California's farms, businesses and consumers. Therefore, we have undertaken a registration reform initiative to speed new, reduced-risk pesticides to market. This attitude will guide our agenda for action.



Mary-Ann Warmerdam, *Director*